

U.S. Serial No. 10/623,130
Amendment
Response to OA dated March 9, 2005

Atty. Docket No. 740165-353

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 17, line 24 and ending on page 18, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

The driver 46 is connected to an ECU 52 formed by a microcomputer or the like. The ECU 52 is connected to a forward observation sensor 54 which structures a detector and serves as a forward observation device. The forward observation sensor 54 is provided in a vicinity of the front end portion of the vehicle, and emits infrared rays toward the region in front of the vehicle, and receives the infrared rays which have been reflected by another vehicle or an obstacle 55 which has stopped or is traveling in front of the vehicle. (Hereinafter, such objects, including vehicles which are traveling or have stopped, will be called "obstacles" for convenience of explanation.) The ECU 52 computes the distance to the obstacle 55 ahead on the basis of the time required for the forward observation sensor 54 to receive light from the time the forward observation sensor 54 emitted the infrared rays.